

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated September 26, 2006, claims 1, 4-14, 16, 18, 21, 23-25, and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 2,897,897 (Breukelman); claims 1, 3, 16, and 19-22 are rejected under § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 4,258,788 (Patton); claim 15 is rejected under § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,127,474 (Schroeder); claims 16, 17, and 26 are rejected under § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 2,217,305 (Bryan); and claims 26 and 27 are rejected under § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 2,602,516 (Gray).

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 2 and 3.

102 Rejection of Claim 1

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by Breukelman. Claim 1 recites “a conduit having an aperture for communicating with a *target reservoir*; and a one-way valve in the aperture.” The Office Action cited an injection conduit (1,20; col.2, lines 47-53) of Breukelman disclosing apertures (25) and one-way valves (31). Breukelman discloses that in unconsolidated sand formations, loose sand accumulates around the body of a testing tool and locks the tool to the well casing (col. 1, lines 18-22). A sleeve subject to sand locking of Breukelman is “engaged on the tubing (15) ported at 21 and which when the tubing is lifted” it will “afford circulation out through the ports to drive sand (22) collected in the chamber (19) upwardly, out through by-pass, up through the tubing leading to the surface” Breukelman, 2:34-40. In other words, Breukelman’s tool is communicating with the surface via tubing and not with a target reservoir, as recited in claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is not anticipated by Breukelman.

Independent claim 28 is allowable for similar reasons.

102 Rejection of Claim 9

It is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is not anticipated by Breukelman. Independent claim 9 is allowable for similar reasons as claim 1. Furthermore, claim 9 recites a method for controlling fluid communication between the interior and exterior of the conduit with the target

reservoir and “allowing flow in one direction through the aperture while restricting flow in an opposite direction using a valve positioned in the aperture.” In other words, claim 9 recites a one way valve facilitating inflow and outflow. The Office Action cited an injection conduit (1,20; col.2, lines 47-53) of Breukelman disclosing ports (25), one-way valves (31) in apertures (21), wherein the valve prevents flow into the conduit (col 3, lines 20-26) and permits outward flow from the conduit (col. 4, lines 19-28). What Breukelman actually discloses are ports admitting outward circulation pressure flow that passes through the openings (21) into the annulus to open up circulation flow (col 2, lines 47-53) while completely preventing inflow. In other words, Breukelman discloses a one-way valve facilitating outflow only. Breukeleman fails to disclose or suggest a one-way valve allowing inflow and outflow through the aperture while completely restricting flow in the opposite direction, as recited in claim 9. In view of the foregoing, claim 9 is not anticipated by Breukelman.

Independent claims 16 and 26 are allowable for similar reasons as claim 9.

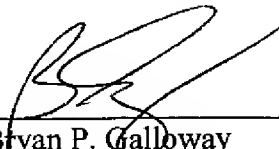
102 Rejection of Claim 15,16, 21, 23, and 26

Claims 15, 16, 21, 23, and 26 have been amended herein and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 20 and 22 have been canceled, without prejudice, to render the rejection of the claims moot.

Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as corresponding independent claims. In view of the allowability of the base claims, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejections of dependent claims have also been overcome. Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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